

CX # 1914

Sc. No. 8312 \*

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FOR THE WAR CRIMES OFFICE

Judge Advocate General's Department - War Department

United States of America

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In the matter of the use of \* Perpetuation of Testimony  
American prisoners of war on \* of Floyd Herman Comfort,  
enemy military works and \* Corporal, United States  
operations by the Japanese at \* Marine Corps, Serial No.  
Shanghai, China between 1942 \* 276883  
and 1945. \*

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Taken at: Security Intelligence Corps Field Area  
Office, Jackson, Mississippi

Date: 14 December 1945

In the Presence of: Jennings, Walter K., Special Agent,  
Security Intelligence Corps.

Reporter: Jennings, Walter K.

Questions by: Jennings, Walter K.

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Q State your name, rank, branch of service, serial number  
and permanent home address.

A Floyd Herman Comfort, Corporal, United States Marine  
Corps, Serial No. 276883, 204 Dewitt Street, Jackson, Miss.

Q State briefly your personal history.

A I was born 3 October 1921 at Clinton, Miss. and was  
reared in Jackson, Miss. I completed the 10th grade  
of school and then went to work, working at various  
jobs for two or three years. In November 1939 I joined  
the Marine Corps and in October 1941 I was sent with  
the 1st Defense Battalion to Wake Island.

Q Have you recently been returned to the United States  
from overseas?

A Yes, I returned to the United States from Japan in  
October 1945.

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Q Were you a prisoner of war?

A Yes.

Q At what places were you held and state the approximate dates?

A I was taken prisoner by the Japanese on 23 December 1941 on Wake Island. From Wake we were taken to near Shanghai, China to Woo Sung, a small village. I remained there until 5 or 6 December 1942, when I was moved to Kang Jon, which was just a little nearer Shanghai, and remained there until May 1945. Then we were taken to Fieng Tai near Peking, China and stayed there about a month. From there we were taken through Korea to Japan, to Hokadate Prison #3 on the island of Hokkaido, where on 16 September 1945 we were liberated by American forces.

Q Do you have any knowledge of the use of any American prisoners of war by the Japs on enemy military works or installations?

A Yes. All during the time I was at Woo Sung and Kang Jon working parties of our men were used constantly in work at a place called the Shanghai Garage, which was a sort of repair depot for all kinds of military vehicles and equipment. I worked there for over a year in the welding shop, where trucks etc were repaired. I was also, along with others, used in the polishing and shining of used artillery shell cases. In addition, I was also made to work digging air raid shelters.

Q Was this the exception or the rule at your prison camp?

A It was the rule.

Q Who was responsible for this use of prisoners of war doing military work?

A The Jap Commandant of the prison, I suppose. His name was Col. Odero.

Q Do you have any more information to give on this subject?

A. No.

/s/ Floyd Herman Comfort  
Floyd Herman Comfort, Corporal  
United States Marine Corps

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State of : Mississippi

County of : Hinds

I, Floyd Herman Comfort, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath, state that I have read the foregoing transcription of my interrogation and all answers contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ Floyd Herman Comfort  
Floyd Herman Comfort, Corporal  
United States Marine Corps

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17th day of December 1945.

/s/ Robert L. Calhoun  
ROBERT L. CALHOUN, 1st Lt., Inf.  
O-1320504, Assistant Adjutant  
Dist. 7, ASF, 4th SvC

#### C E R T I F I C A T E

"I, Walter K. Jennings, Special Agent, Security Intelligence Corps, Fourth Service Command, certify that Floyd Herman Comfort, Corporal, United States Marine Corps, Serial No. 276883, personally appeared before me on 14 December 1945, and testified concerning war crimes; and that the foregoing is an accurate transcription of the answers given by him to the several questions set forth."

Place: Jackson, Mississippi /s/ Walter K. Jennings  
Walter K. Jennings  
Special Agent, Security Intelligence  
Date : 14 December 1945 Corps, Fourth Service Command

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答、アミッシシソビール洲ージヤツクソン市ヲテウ  
 イット一通ニ〇四番地記載番號第二七六八八  
 三號、米國陸戰隊伍長一フロイド。ハーマン  
 カムフォート

× × × × × × ×

答、私ハ一九四一年十二月二十三日一ウエー  
 島デ日本人ニ依ツテ俘虜ニサレマシタ。一ウ  
 エーイーカラ我々ハ中國ノ上海附近ノ一小村  
 吳淞ニツレラレテ行かれマシタ。私ハ一九四  
 二年十二月五日カ六日マテ其處ニ居リソレカ  
 ラ江灣ニモサレマシタ。ソコハ上海ニ少シバ  
 カリ近イ所アリ、ソコニ一九四五五年五月マ  
 テ居リマシタ。

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問、貴下ハ敵ノ軍事作業ヤ機設ニ日本人ガ米國人  
 証言ヲ信ツタコトニ何キ何カ知ツテ居ルコト  
 ガアリマスカ。

答、ハイ、私ガ吳淞ト江灣ニ居タ全期間ヲ通ジテ  
 我々ノ作業區ハ上海一ガラーテー卜云フ所テ

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總工事作業ニ使ハレマシタ。ソコヘアラユル  
軍用車用工具ノ一類ノ修理場テシタ。  
私ハ貨物自動車方修理サレテキタ鎗接作業場  
テ一ヶ年間以上1.5キマシタ。私ハ又他ノ人達  
ト共ニ使用シタ砲弾ノ張旗ヲ感イタリ光ラセ  
タリスルノニ使ハレマシタ。ソレニ加エテ私  
ヘ又防空壕掘リモサセラレマシタ。

問、ソレハ貴下ノ居ク俘虜收容所ニ於ケル例外ノ  
コトテアツタカ又ハ現則ダツタノテスカ、

答、規則ダツタノテス。

問、軍事作業ヲナス俘虜ノコノ使用ニ對シテハ誰  
方責任者テシタカ、

答、日本人俘虜收容所長クト思ヒマス。彼ノ名前  
ハ「オテロ」大佐テシタ。

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